REMARKS

This Amendment is in response to the Final Office Action dated August 3, 2010. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and allowance of all pending claims in view of the above-amendments and the following remarks.

I.   CLAIM AMENDMENTS

The feature "when said software and a predetermined access control protocol for access to at least one of said virtual network(s) are compatible, said client being able to access the services of at least one service provider" finds support in the specification at page 8, 3rd paragraph.

The feature "said address server transmits to the client an address for accessing to said at least one subscription system" finds support in the specification at page 16, last paragraph and page 17 paragraphs 1 and 2, step 303 in figure 3, and pending claim 9.

The feature "upon reception of said address, the client accesses to said at least one subscription system and subscribes to said at least one service provider" finds support in the specification at page 17, paragraphs 3 and 4 and steps 304 and 305 in figure 3.

The feature "upon detection of the subscription of the client, said at least one subscription system transfers to the client an authentication and information which makes it possible to make the software of the client compatible with the predetermined access control protocol" finds support in the specification at page 18, 1st full paragraph, and 306 in figure 3.

II.   CLAIM REJECTIONS – USC § 103

Claims 1, 2 and 11 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being anticipated by Weinstein et al., U.S. Publication No 2002/0191572 in view of Chang et al., U.S. Publication No. 2004/0215635 and further in view of Stephenson et al., U.S. Publication No. 2002/0023143.

A. **Figure 1 of Stephenson**
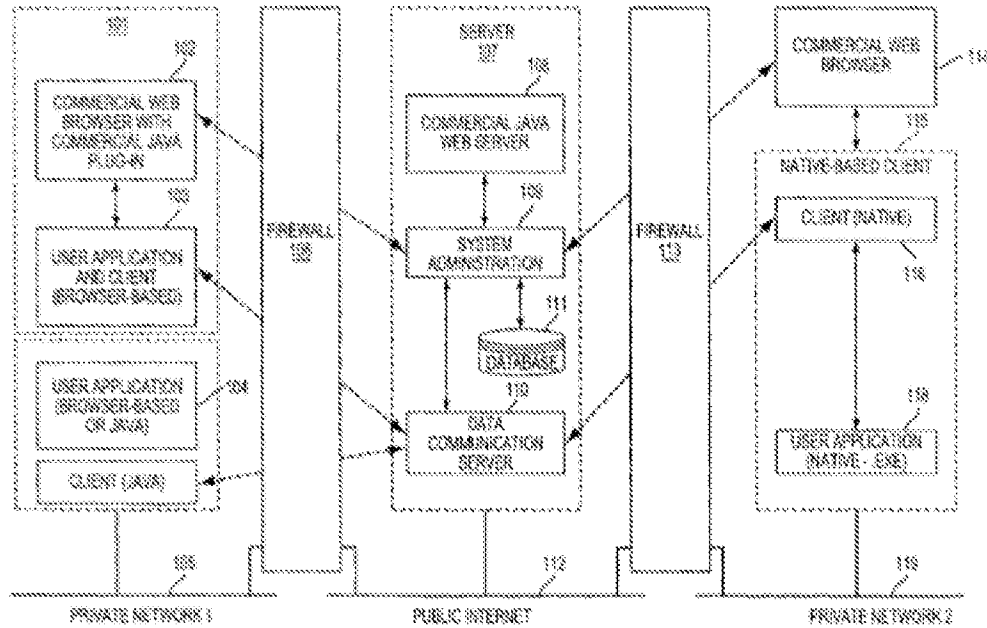
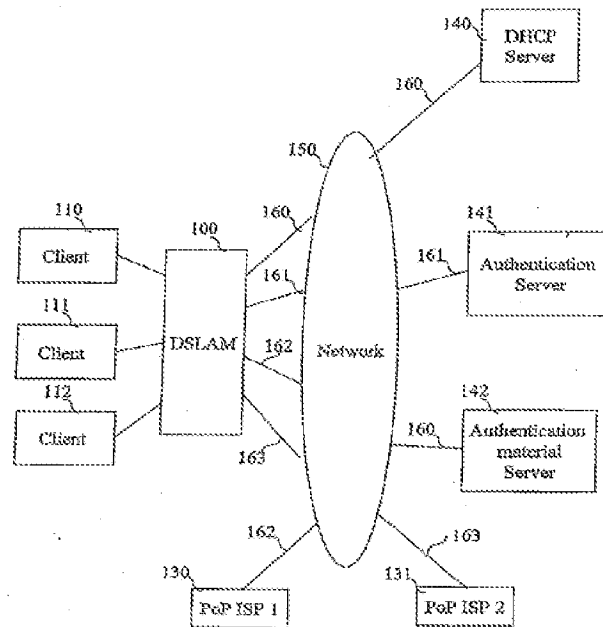B. **Figure 1 of the Present Application**

Fig. 1

C.   **Examiner's Position**

The Examiner argues in paragraph 8 of the Office Action that Stephenson teaches:

a) authorizing data transfer between the client and at least one subscription system for subscribing the client to at least one service provider via an authentication network;

b) if the non-compatible client subscribes to at least one service provider via the authentication network, transferring to the non-compatible client an authentication for accessing the virtual network that allows access to the services of the service provider to which the non-compatible client is subscribed and information which makes it possible to make the software of the client compatible with the predetermined access control protocol.

D.   **Applicant's Position**

In reply, the Applicant agrees that:

- the client 101 of Stephenson is equivalent to the client 110-112 of the present application; and

- the client 115 of Stephenson is equivalent to the service provider 130-131 of the present application.

On the other hand, the Applicant believes that the public network 112 of Stephenson **is not** an authentication network 160 according to the present application. Indeed, as illustrated on Figure 1 of the present application (see above §B), the authentication network 160 is set up on the telecommunication network 150. The authentication network 160 according to the present application comprises an address server 140 (e.g., DHCP server) and a subscription system 142. As described in the specification of the present application (see page 9, second paragraph), via the address server 140, the client 110 which does not have software that is compatible with the IEEE 802.x protocol obtains an address and can thus establish communication with the subscription system 142 and subscribe to the services offered by one or more service providers.

As illustrated on Figure 1 of Stephenson (see above §A), the public network 112 of Stephenson does not comprise any subscription system allowing a user of the (terminal) client to

subscribe to services, nor does it comprise an address server in charge of transmitting to the client (which does not have software that is compatible) an address for accessing the subscription system.

In addition, the Applicant believes that the server 107 of Stephenson **is not** a subscription system 142 according to the present application.

Indeed, the subscription system 142 according to the present application permits the user of a (terminal) client (which does not have software that is compatible) to subscribe to one or several service(s). In the case where the client (which does not have software that is compatible) subscribes to one or several service(s), the subscription system 142 transmits to the client an authentication (for example, an identifier and a password code or an authentication material) and information which makes it possible to make the software of the client compatible. As described in the specification of the present application (see second paragraph on page 18), this information comprises for example a command for activation of the "supplicant" 802.1x software...or a visual and/or acoustic message inviting the client to activate the 802.1x software or to download it.

On the contrary, the server 107 of Stephenson functions to relay data between clients 101 and 115 separated by two firewalls, and thus permits a data exchange between the clients without lowering the security levels of the firewalls.

To summarize the above, the server 107 of Stephenson is different from the subscription system 142 according to the present application since it does not:

- allow a client (which does not have software that is compatible) to subscribe to services of a service provider;

- if the client subscribes to services, transmit to the client an authentication and information which makes it possible to make the software of the client compatible.

E.   **Novel Elements of Claim 1**

The Applicant believes that **none** of the cited documents (Weinstein, Chang and

Stephenson) disclose at least the following features of amended claim 1:

- the authentication network is set up on the telecommunication network;

- the authentication network comprises an address server and a subscription system;

- the address server transmits to the client an address for accessing the subscription system;

- upon receipt of the address, the client accesses to the subscription system and subscribes to one or several services via the subscription system;

- upon detection of subscription by the client, the subscription system transmits to the client an authentication and information which makes it possible to make the software of the client compatible.

In conclusion, even if Weinstein, Chang and Stephenson documents were combined as suggested by the Examiner, such combination is not relevant to amended claim 1.

Independent claims 11 and 12 are amended in a similar fashion as claim 1. Thus, these claims are also new and non-obvious in view of Weinstein, Chang and Stephenson.

III.   REMAINING REJECTIONS

Claims 3-9, 12, 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinstein, Chang and Stephenson and in further view of Prasad et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,197,125.

Claim 10 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Weinstein, Chang and Stephenson and in further view of Addington et al., U.S. Patent No. 7,194,756.

Claim 13 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Prasad in view of Addington.

Applicant respectfully traverses the rejections of dependent claims 3-10, 12, 13 and 15-16 for at least the reasons mentioned above.

The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,

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